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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

OCI #0932/72

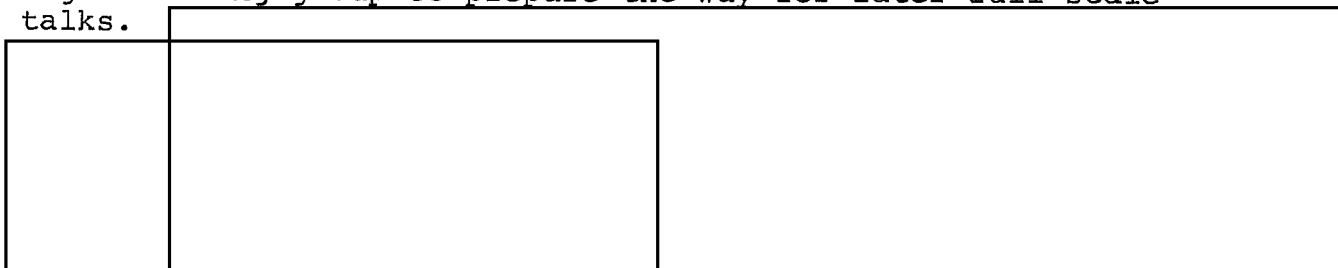
13 July 1972

State Dept. review completed

GDR Pursues Finnish Talks

To the surprise of no one, Pankow has taken Helsinki's offer of 10 July to discuss establishment of diplomatic relations with the GDR and FRG and run with it. An announcement of 12 July stated that foreign minister Winzer has been instructed to take "the necessary measures" for negotiating the normalization of relations between Finland and the GDR.

Pankow will no doubt push the Finns to follow through on their offer. Unless the West Germans agree to enter into negotiations, which is now unlikely, the Finns probably will limit their initiative vis-a-vis East Germany to establishing a working group to prepare the way for later full-scale talks.



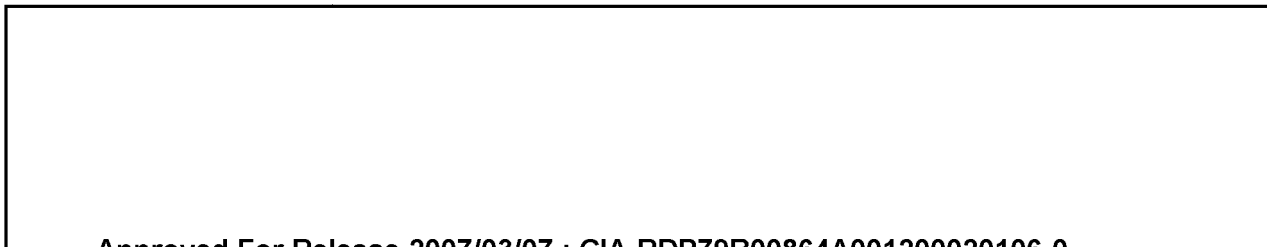
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Romania Hails Korean Joint Statement

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In marked contrast to the failure of the Soviet press to comment on the significance of the Korean joint statement, Romanian media have devoted extensive space to reports on the agreement. This coverage has included a precipitate laudatory editorial published on 5 July as well as Ceausescu's 8 July congratulatory letter (published on 12 July) to Kim Il-Sung. Furthermore, Bucharest has used the party newspaper, Scinteia, as the principal medium for this coverage in an effort to emphasize the importance of the event.

The Romanians predictably play the Korean agreement with- in the context of their well-known political "principles."

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Thus, Ceaurescu's letter asserts that the agreement "once again shows the validity and effectiveness of the methods of contact, direct dialogue and talks in the settlement of issues in dispute."

Another aspect of the Romanian coverage hints at the Korean agreement as being an example to other divided nations. Thus, "despite differences of ideologies, aims and systems, there exists a single nation. In stressing the role of the united nation-state, the Romanians may also have in mind North and South Vietnam."

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Government Personnel Shifts in Bulgaria

The appointment of Bulgarian party secretary Venelin Kotsev to a deputy premiership was the most significant of several government personnel shifts announced last week in Sofia. Elsewhere in the government, the reshuffle, the first since party chief Todor Zhivkov became chief of state last July, was aimed at correcting economic mismanagement--especially in the construction sector, which has been criticized severely in recent months.

According to the US Embassy in Sofia, the appointment of Kotsev may be Zhivkov's way of dodging responsibility for the party chief's socialist emulation campaign which began last December. Nevertheless, Kotsev's reported self-assurance and ability to inspire confidence are qualities that Sofia might wish to use in government at this time. He can be expected to leave his post as party secretary because it, like his new government position, is a full-time job. He probably will retain his alternate membership on the party's politburo, however.

Kotsev's new government post also may be related in some way to party-to-government shifts in Poland and Romania. In those countries, secretaries who, like Kotsev, had been responsible either for inter-party relations or ideology, were shifted from the party secretariat to the government apparatus as deputy premiers. Although available evidence does not shed any light on whether these shifts are related, both the Pole and Romanian have a healthy respect for their national self-interests. Insofar as Bulgaria slavishly emulates

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the USSR in foreign policy, Kotsev's appointment is consistent with respect to the preservation of Bulgarian self-interests.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
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